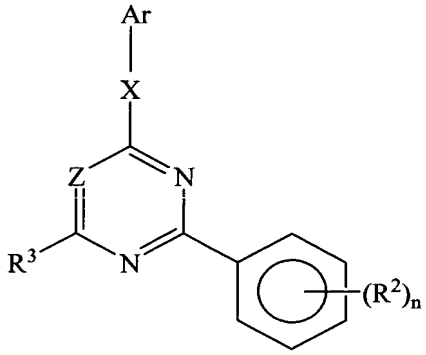
Claims

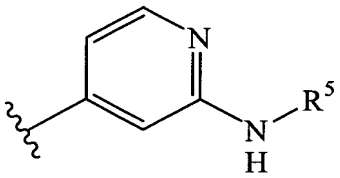
1. A compound of the formula



(1)

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrug forms thereof; wherein

Ar represents an optionally substituted aromatic or optionally substituted heteroaromatic moiety containing 5-12 ring members wherein said heteroaromatic moiety contains one or more O, S, and/or N, with a proviso that optionally substituted Ar is not



wherein R^5 is H, alkyl (1-6C), alkenyl (2-6C), alkynyl (2-6C), an aromatic or heteroaromatic moiety containing 5-11 ring members;

X is NR^1, O, or S;

R^1 is H, alkyl (1-8C), alkenyl (2-8C), or alkynyl (2-8C);

Z represents N or CR^4;

each of R^3 and R^4 is independently H, or a non-interfering substituent;

each R^2 is independently a non-interfering substituent; and

n is 0-5.

2. The compound of claim 1 wherein each R^3 and R^4 is independently H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aroyl, O-aryl, O-alkylaryl, O-aroyl, NR-aryl, NR-alkylaryl, NR-aroyl, or the hetero forms of any of the foregoing, halo, OR, NR_2, SR, -SOR, -NRSOR, $-NRSO_2R$, $-SO_2R$, -OCOR, -NRCOR, $-NRCONR_2$, -NRCOOR, $-OCONR_2$, -COOR,

$-SO_3R$, $-CONR_2$, $-SO_2NR_2$, -CN, $-CF_3$, or $-NO_2$, wherein each R is independently H or alkyl (1-10C);

wherein any alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl or aryl groups contained in R^3 and/or R^4 may contain one or more heteroatoms and/or optionally be further substituted.

3. The compound of claim 1 wherein each R^2 is independently alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aroyl, O-aryl, O-alkylaryl, O-aroyl, NR-aryl, NR-alkylaryl, NR-aroyl, or the hetero forms of any of the foregoing, halo, OR, NR_2, SR, -SOR, -NRSOR, $-NRSO_2R$, $-SO_2R$, -OCOR, -NRCOR, $-NRCONR_2$, -NRCOOR, $-OCONR_2$, -COOR, $-SO_3R$, $-CONR_2$, $-SO_2NR_2$, -CN, $-CF_3$, or $-NO_2$, wherein each R is independently H or lower alkyl (1-4C), wherein any alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl or aryl groups contained in R^2 may contain one or more heteroatoms and/or may optionally be further substituted.

4. The compound of claim 1, wherein the substituents on the aromatic moiety of Ar are selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aroyl, O-aryl, O-alkylaryl, O-aroyl, NR-aryl, NR-alkylaryl, NR-aroyl, or the hetero forms of any of the foregoing, halo, OR, NR_2, SR, -SOR, -NRSOR, $-NRSO_2R$, $-SO_2R$, -OCOR, -NRCOR, $-NRCONR_2$, -NRCOOR, $-OCONR_2$, -COOR, $-SO_3R$, $-CONR_2$, $-SO_2NR_2$, -CN, $-CF_3$, and $-NO_2$, wherein each R is independently H or alkyl (1-10C), and wherein any alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl or aryl moieties contained in the substituent may contain one or more heteroatoms and/or may further be substituted by the foregoing substituents.

5. The compound of claim 1, wherein Ar is optionally substituted phenyl, 2-, 3- or 4-pyridyl, indolyl, 2- or 4-pyrimidyl, or benzimidazolyl.

6. The compound of claim 1, wherein n is 0-3.

7. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is H or lower alkyl (1-4C).

8. The compound of claim 2, wherein each R^3 and R^4 is independently H, alkyl (1-10C), OR, SR or NR_2 wherein R is H or alkyl (1-10C), each optionally substituted.

9. The compound of claim 8, wherein said optional substituent is an aromatic moiety or a heterocyclic moiety, each optionally substituted.

10. The compound of claim 9, wherein at least one of R^3 and R^4 is H.

11. The compound of claim 3, wherein each R^2 is independently alkyl, alkoxy, or halo.

12. The compound of claim 11, wherein each R^2 is independently halo.

13. The compound of claim 4, wherein the substituents on the aromatic moiety of Ar are selected from the group consisting of alkyl, O-aryl, O-alkylaryl, NR-aryl, and N-alkylaryl wherein any alkyl or aryl contained in said substituent may further optionally be substituted.

14. The compound of claim 13, wherein said aryl includes 0, 1 or 2 substituents.

15. The compound of claim 14, wherein said aryl includes 0 or 1 substituents.

16. The compound of claim 2, wherein each R^3 and R^4 is independently H, CN, COOR, OR, SR, NR_2, alkyl (1-6C), acyl (1-6C), aryl, aryloxy, arylalkyloxy, wherein R is H or alkyl (1-10C) and wherein any alkyl or aryl portions of said substituents may further be substituted with the foregoing.

17. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is H.

18. The compound of claim 5, wherein Ar is optionally substituted phenyl, 4-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyrimidyl, or 2-pyrimidyl.

19. The compound of claim 18, wherein Ar is 4-pyridyl.

20. A method to treat conditions associated with unwanted activity of TGFβ which method comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of the compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutical composition thereof.

21. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the compound of formula (1) in admixture with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.